

NSC BRIEFING

9 July 1959

SOUTH VIETNAM

- I. Two American military advisers killed and one wounded yesterday at Bien Hoa, 30 kilometers north of Saigon.
 - A. This first incident of violence against US personnel since October 1957.
 - B. MAAG detachment messhall attacked by from five to ten assailants presumably Vietnamese Communists who used automatic fire and grenades. Three Vietnamese also killed--a mess attendant, a guard and one of the attackers.
 1. Government troops dispersed attackers and are making sweep of area. Claim to have identified dead attacker as Communist.
 - C. Earlier this year government had launched major security sweep in this area against Communist force of several hundred.
- II. President Dien had recently expressed concern that Communist underground was planning new phase of violence and requested American assistance to cope with it.

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